

Health Care Summit, Frederick County
Prescription Work Group Minutes
September 20, 2006

Members Present: Vicki Mills, Colette Hough, Tom Werner, Russell Byrne, Kathy Sargent, Kim Vander Weyden, Dianne Vander Weyden, Gladys Scott, Katherine Murray, Sally Familton, Bonnie Bramwell, Melinda Malott

New Member: Todd Johnson from CAA

Bonnie Bramwell, Chair opened the meeting with two points of discussion:

- 1) Due to time constraints she feels she can not chair the group
- 2) She was originally tasked to provide the group with a listing of all possible resources one could utilize to get free or reduced cost medications. After some thought Bonnie felt just a listing would be useless to the group without some explanation. She also felt that she didn't want a list of that nature to be circulated to the other summit members or the community at large.

There was discussion about who should chair. The group identified agencies that were not represented on our work group and should be. It was suggested that the solution was to identify and develop a single point of entry for consumers' who need prescription assistance. It was also suggested that an unrepresentative agency member should chair the group. The group was encouraged to invite others to our group however we were reminded that it is a voluntary process and we can't force agencies or individuals to participate.

The group concurred that a single point of entry would be a wonderful solution however; the group felt there may be other solutions as well. Funding sources were discussed however there was no conclusion about who could fund a single point of entry program. Dr. Byrne from Mission of Mercy ultimately volunteered to take the chair position. Dr. Byrne indicated that he would need the help and participation of others on the group.

. Everyone agreed that we need smaller attainable goals. The group decided to identify our scope, goals and objectives to prevent jumping to a conclusion that may not be attainable. The group defined what is we want to solve and how we want to accomplish our goals. The group examined the barrier, goal and objectives identified at the original summit meeting. Everyone agreed that the summit goals were all relevant and some may require legislative changes. Two major areas of need were identified:

Access

Locations for people to get help
Process – needs to be simplified
Medications –Unmet urgent , short term and
chronic needs.

Outreach and Education:

Practitioners at all levels and their office staff
Consumers
Support agencies: Case Managers, Home health
nurses, School Nurses, Social Services, etc.

Discussion included how and why we should educate the above groups.

A brainstorming session identified whom it is we want to help. The list included:

Those who fall into the donut hole of Medicare Part D

Working Poor

Indigent

Middle Income

Those who are above poverty level but can't afford medications

Those who qualify but have to wait 6-8 weeks

Disabled

Immigrants

Those with no prescription coverage

Under insured and uninsured

Those who have RX coverage that doesn't cover their particular medication

Those who have utilized the maximum allowable benefit and now pay out of pocket

Those who are victims of changing formularies

Next Meeting Assignments: Group members are to bring their own list of resources they are familiar with to aid citizens in obtaining their medications. The plan is to categorize them in a way that will make sense to those we will outreach to. Some suggestions for the information was to put it into a brochure, resource guide or post it on a web site once it is in user friendly format.

Next Meeting: October 18, 2006 from 4 PM – 6 PM at FMH classrooms (the same location as the original summit meeting) directions will be sent closer to the time of the meeting.